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Quarterly Statistical Review


Dept. of HEALTH AND
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
Research and Planning Division

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JANUARY - MARCH 1974

Notes:

Data used in the construction of all figures contained within the Quarterly Statistical Review are available on request from research and planning.



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CANCER MORTALITY

Stuart Smith*

Many people visualize cancer as a single disease entity which is invariably fatal. In fact the term covers a group of diseases which have certain characteristics in common, namely the proliferation of abnormal cells (usually in the form of a localized tumour), the ability to invade surrounding tissue, and the capacity to spread to other parts of the body by way of the blood stream or lymphatic system. The most lethal cancers are generally those which metastasize (i.e., spread to remote parts of the body) at an early stage of their development.

In Alberta, as in Canada as a whole, cancer ranks as the second leading cause of death, its mortality being exceeded only by that of heart disease. It accounted for 18 per cent of all Alberta deaths during the period 1970 - 72, with a rate of 118.3 per 100,000 population. Differentiating between the sexes, it accounted for 17.4 per cent of male deaths, with a rate of 136.4 per 100,000 population and for 20.1 per cent of female deaths, with a rate of 99.5 per 100,000 population.

From Table 1 we see that the crude death rate from cancer varies considerably from province to province, but that the rate for males is consistently higher than the rate for females. In Alberta the crude cancer death rate is substantially below the national average for males, females and both sexes together. However, comparison between crude death rates can sometimes be misleading, since these rates are influenced by differences in the sex and age structure of the populations concerned.

For this reason Table 2 has been prepared to show the age-adjusted death rates for each province. These rates have been calculated by the indirect method of standardization, whereby the sex- and age-specific death rates for Canada are applied to the corresponding segments of each province's population to give an estimate of expected deaths for each sex. The age-adjusted death rate is then the crude cancer death rate in the Canadian population, for each sex separately and for both sexes together, multiplied by the ratio of the observed to expected deaths in the provincial population.

We note that in Alberta the age-adjusted death rate from cancer, like the crude death rate, is well below the all-Canada rate for males, females and both sexes together. We also note that only two provinces, Prince Edward Island

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and Saskatchewan, and the two territories have lower age-adjusted cancer death rates than Alberta. As in the case of crude death rates, the age-adjusted death rates for males are consistently higher than those for females.

In Table 3 are shown the numbers of deaths from cancer in Alberta by sex and five-year age groups for the period 1970 - 72, together with the average yearly age-specific rates. There is a tendency for mortality among males to exceed that among females in the age range 0 - 24, when the rates are at their lowest. Female mortality exceeds male mortality throughout the age range 25 - 54, when the rates are climbing steadily. Finally, from the age of 55 onwards, male mortality not only exceeds female mortality, but increases much more rapidly to the point where, from age 65, the age-specific rate for males is never less than 68 per cent higher than the corresponding rate for females, and eventually, from age 80, exceeds the female rate by nearly 90 per cent.

The age-specific death rates for each sex shown in Table 3 are also presented graphically in Figure 1. Because of the exponential nature of the increases from age 25 onwards, it has been necessary to use a logarithmic scale.

It is convenient to classify cancers according to the site of the primary growth. This has been done in Table 4 for deaths from cancer among Albertans of each sex which occurred during the period 1970 - 72.

In order of importance, the leading forms of fatal cancer among males were:

1. Cancer of the trachea, bronchus or lung;
2. Cancer of the prostate;
3. Cancer of the stomach;
4. Cancer of other digestive organs or peritoneum, which would include cancer of the gall bladder and cancer of the pancreas;
5. Cancer of the intestine, except rectum, which would refer primarily to cancer of the colon;
6. Leukaemia, or cancer of the blood, where the primary lesion is in the bone marrow.

Again, in order of importance, the leading forms of fatal cancer among females were:

1. Cancer of the breast;
2. Cancer of the intestine, except rectum;
3. Cancer of other digestive organs or peritoneum;
4. Cancer of the ovary, fallopian tube or broad ligament of the uterus;
5. Cancer of the trachea, bronchus or lung;
6. Cancer of the stomach.

Cancer of the genital tract accounted for 428 male deaths and 355 female deaths, giving a male to female sex ratio of 1:2. For all forms of non-genital cancer except breast cancer (which can occur in males), the ratio of male to female deaths was never less than 1:0.

It is interesting to note the forms of cancer which are associated with a sex ratio greater than 2:0. These are:

1. Cancer of the larynx;
2. Cancer of the trachea, bronchus and lung;
3. Cancer of the bladder;
4. Cancer of the buccal cavity and pharynx;
5. Cancer of the oesophagus;
6. Cancer of other urinary organs, which would include cancer of the kidney;
7. Cancer of the stomach.

The list is interesting because it matches almost exactly the list of cancers for which an association with cigarette smoking is either well established or strongly suspected. There is no association with smoking for any of the cancers with a sex ratio less than 2:0.

TABLE 1 DEATHS AND CRUDE AVERAGE DEATH RATES FROM CANCER
BY PROVINCE AND SEX, CANADA, 1970 - 72

Province	Male Deaths		Female Deaths		Total Deaths	
	#	Rate/100,000	#	Rate/100,000	#	Rate/100,000
Newfoundland	1076	134.8	724	94.3	1800	114.9
PEI	292	173.1	226	135.9	518	154.7
Nova Scotia	2142	180.1	1760	149.5	3902	164.9
New Brunswick	1467	153.1	1180	124.8	2647	139.0
Quebec	14543	161.9	11822	129.9	26365	145.8
Ontario	18439	160.0	15130	130.6	33569	145.3
Manitoba	2724	183.6	2086	140.9	4810	162.2
Saskatchewan	2488	176.2	1650	120.7	4138	148.9
Alberta	3388	136.4	2389	99.5	5777	118.3
British Columbia	5694	172.4	4433	136.3	10127	154.5
Yukon	35	117.6	13	51.2	48	87.0
NWT	44	80.2	39	78.6	83	79.5
Canada	52332	161.6	41452	128.3	93784	144.9

TABLE 2 EXPECTED DEATHS AND AGE-ADJUSTED AVERAGE DEATH RATES FROM
CANCER BY PROVINCE AND SEX, CANADA, 1970 - 72*

Province	Male Expected Deaths		Female Expected Deaths		Total Expected Deaths	
	#	Rate/100,000	#	Rate/100,000	#	Rate/100,000
Newfoundland	1067.6	162.9	752.5	123.4	1820.1	143.3
PEI	350.0	134.8	259.6	111.6	609.6	123.2
Nova Scotia	2147.7	161.1	1647.7	137.0	3795.4	149.0
New Brunswick	1625.2	145.9	1237.3	122.4	2862.5	134.1
Quebec	12564.9	187.0	10441.6	145.2	23006.5	166.1
Ontario	18489.3	161.1	15590.1	124.4	34079.4	142.8
Manitoba	2855.1	154.2	2135.1	125.3	4990.2	139.7
Saskatchewan	3010.9	133.5	1986.2	106.6	4997.1	120.0
Alberta	3936.2	139.1	2696.9	113.6	6633.1	126.2
British Columbia	6218.1	148.0	4664.7	121.8	10882.8	134.9
Yukon	28.3	200.0	15.1	110.3	43.4	160.4
NWT	38.5	184.7	24.3	205.7	62.8	191.6
Canada	52331.8	161.6	41451.1	128.3	93782.9	144.9

*Note: Rates have been standardized by the indirect method.

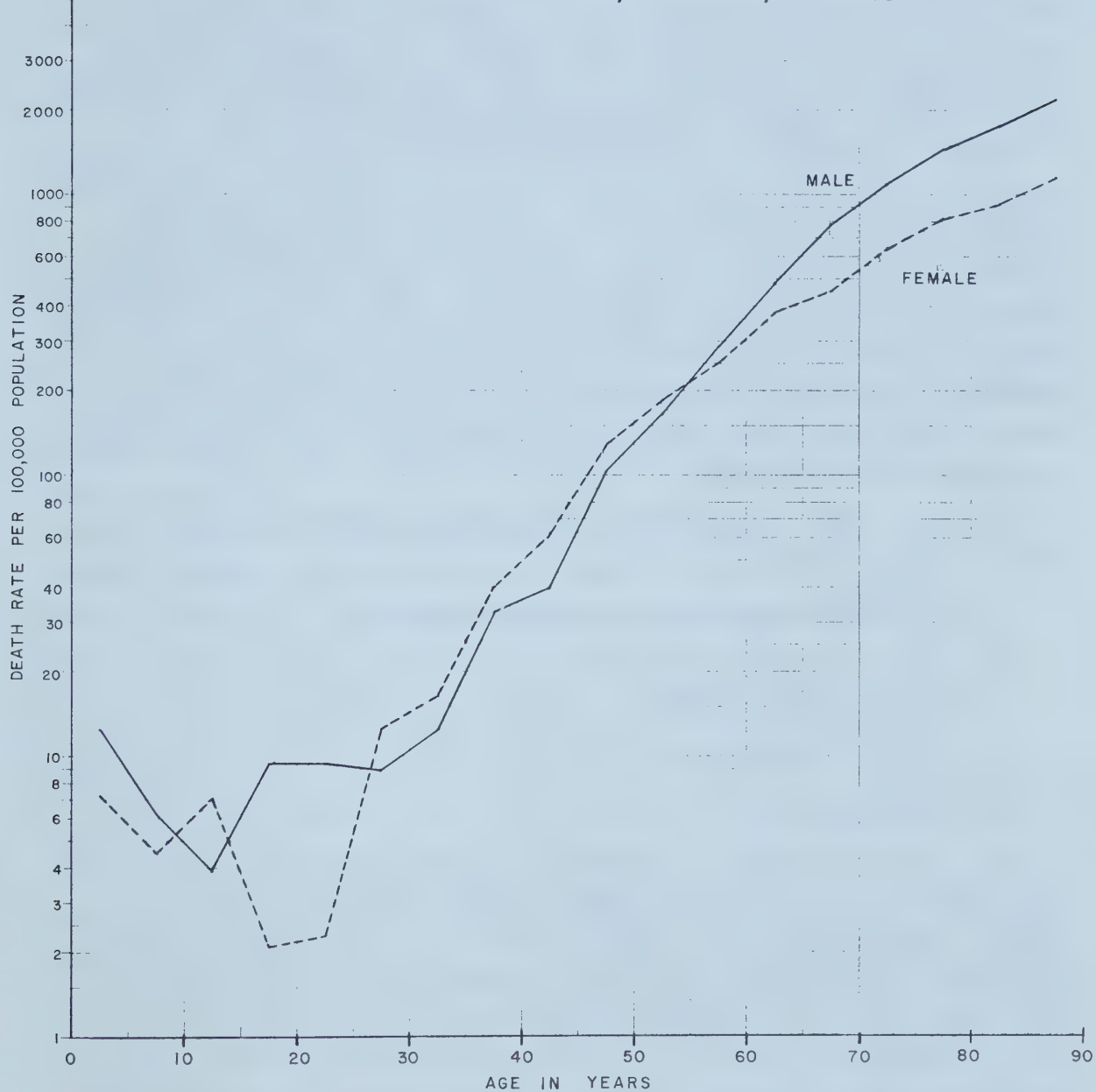
TABLE 3 DEATHS FROM CANCER BY SEX AND AGE,
ALBERTA, 1970 - 72

Age Group	Male Deaths		Female Deaths		Total Deaths	
	#	Rate/100,000	#	Rate/100,000	#	Rate/100,000
0 - 4	29	12.5	16	7.2	45	9.9
5 - 9	17	6.2	12	4.5	29	5.3
10 - 14	11	3.9	19	7.1	30	5.5
15 - 19	23	9.4	5	2.1	28	5.8
20 - 24	20	9.4	5	2.3	25	5.9
25 - 29	16	8.9	22	12.5	38	10.7
30 - 34	19	12.5	24	16.3	43	14.3
35 - 39	50	32.5	56	39.8	106	36.0
40 - 44	59	39.7	85	62.4	144	50.6
45 - 49	136	102.4	167	127.1	303	114.7
50 - 54	185	164.5	205	184.5	390	174.4
55 - 59	284	287.4	244	252.4	528	270.1
60 - 64	381	479.5	290	380.1	671	430.8
65 - 69	509	776.7	275	454.8	784	622.2
70 - 74	493	1091.9	293	648.1	786	869.9
75 - 79	455	1450.7	274	822.8	729	1127.6
80 - 84	387	1759.9	208	926.9	595	1339.2
85+	314	2176.0	189	1154.9	503	1633.4
All Ages	3388	136.4	2389	99.5	5777	118.3

TABLE 4 DEATHS FROM CANCER BY SITE AND SEX,
ALBERTA, 1970 - 72

Primary Site	Male Deaths		Female Deaths		Total Deaths		Sex Ratio
	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Buccal cavity and pharynx	73	2.2	23	1.0	96	1.7	3:2
Oesophagus	64	1.9	21	0.9	85	1.5	3:0
Stomach	347	10.2	162	6.8	509	8.8	2:1
Intestine, except rectum	296	8.7	287	12.0	583	10.1	1:0
Rectum and rectosigmoid junction	137	4.0	73	3.1	210	3.6	1:9
Other digestive organs and peritoneum	299	8.8	213	8.9	512	8.9	1:4
Larynx	34	1.0	2	0.1	36	0.6	17:0
Trachea, bronchus and lung	770	22.7	164	6.9	934	16.2	4:7
Other respiratory organs	13	0.4	9	0.4	22	0.4	1:4
Bone	29	0.9	15	0.6	44	0.8	1:9
Skin	33	1.0	27	1.1	60	1.0	1:2
Breast	-	-	462	19.3	462	8.0	-
Cervix of uterus	-	-	98	4.1	98	1.7	-
Uterus except cervix	-	-	69	2.9	69	1.2	-
Ovary, tube and broad ligament	-	-	177	7.4	177	3.1	-
Other female genitalia	-	-	11	0.5	11	0.2	-
Prostate	400	11.8	-	-	400	6.9	-
Male genitalia, except prostate	28	0.8	-	-	28	0.5	-
Connective and other soft tissue	20	0.6	16	0.7	36	0.6	1:3
Bladder	107	3.2	29	1.2	136	2.4	3:7
Other urinary organs	104	3.1	41	1.7	145	2.5	2:5
Brain and nervous system	107	3.2	77	3.2	184	3.2	1:4
Leukaemia	171	5.0	114	4.8	285	4.9	1:5
Hodgkin's disease	32	0.9	26	1.1	58	1.0	1:2
Other	324	9.6	273	11.4	597	10.3	1:2
Total	3388	99.8	2389	100.1	5777	100.1	1:4

FIGURE 1 AGE SPECIFIC DEATH RATES
FROM CANCER BY SEX, ALBERTA, 1970 + 72



HIGHLIGHTS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Stuart Smith*

Notifiable diseases are certain communicable diseases which are reportable, with a few exceptions, to the Division of Local Health Services. The exceptions are venereal diseases, which are reportable to the Division of Social Hygiene, and tuberculosis, which is reportable to the Division of Tuberculosis Control. The tables which accompany this commentary represent the cases which were reported to the Division of Local Health Services and the Division of Social Hygiene during the period January to March 1974.

Table 1 shows the geographic distribution of reported cases of the commoner notifiable diseases (excluding venereal diseases and tuberculosis). Table 2 shows the sex and age distribution of reported cases of notifiable diseases (excluding venereal diseases, tuberculosis and the rare diseases), and Table 3 shows the same information for venereal diseases. Table 4 shows the reported incidence of each of the notifiable diseases (excluding venereal diseases, tuberculosis and the rare diseases) with the five-year mean for the corresponding quarter, and Table 5 shows the same information (but with a breakdown by sex) for venereal diseases.

The most commonly reported notifiable diseases during the quarter, in order of frequency, were

1. Gonorrhoea
2. Streptococcal sore throat and scarlet fever
3. Measles
4. Infectious hepatitis
5. Rubella (German measles)
6. Bacillary dysentery
7. Salmonellosis
8. Syphilis
9. Diphtheria
10. Serum hepatitis.

The reported incidence of gonorrhoea was almost exactly the same as in the last three months of 1973, but by comparison with the five-year average for January - March was up by 46 per cent for males and 147 per cent for females. Its reported frequency was about forty times that of all forms of syphilis. Male cases of gonorrhoea continued to outnumber female cases by nearly two to one, but between the ages of 10 and 19 female cases exceed males by 44 per cent. The peak age incidence for males was in the age group 20 - 24, while the peak age for females was in the age group 15 - 19. Of the gonorrhoea total, 32 per

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cent was accounted for by the age group 20 - 24.

The reported incidence of streptococcal sore throat and scarlet fever continued to rise for the second consecutive quarter. It showed an increase of almost one third over that of the period October - December 1973, and was 70 per cent higher than the five-year average for January - March. Slightly fewer than half the cases were under 10 years old, and the peak age incidence was in the age group 5 - 9. Sturgeon Health Unit had more than twice as many cases as any other jurisdiction, but it would appear that the highest incidence rate was in the Athabasca Health Unit. The territory represented by these two health units and the city of Edmonton accounted for one-third of the provincial total.

The reported incidence of measles also continued to rise for the second consecutive quarter. It showed an increase of 40 per cent over that of the period October - December 1973, but was only very slightly above the five-year average for January - March. The peak age incidence was in the age group 5 - 9, which accounted for 47 per cent of the total. The district with the largest number of cases was the City of Edmonton, but it would appear that the highest incidence rates were in the Alberta East-Central Health Unit and the Indian reservations.

The incidence of infectious hepatitis was 19 per cent higher than in the preceding quarter, but 25 per cent lower than the five-year average for January - March. The highest age incidence was in the age group 20 - 24, but the incidence was almost as high in the age groups 5 - 9 and 15 - 19. Male cases outnumbered females cases by nearly four to three. The jurisdictions with the largest numbers of cases were the City of Calgary and the City of Edmonton, but in relation to size of population the highest incidence rates were in the Chief Mountain Health Unit, the Chinook Health Unit and the Indian reservations.

Rubella incidence showed a rise of 35 per cent compared with the last three months of 1973, but stood at less than one-quarter of the five-year average for January - March. The age group 5 - 9 was the most severely affected, accounting for 41 per cent of the total count. The largest number of cases was in the City of Calgary, but the highest incidence rate was in the Alberta East Central Health Unit.

Bacillary dysentery increased in incidence by 42 per cent over the preceding quarter, and the incidence rate was more than twice the five-year average for the period January - March. The illness occurred most frequently in the age

group 1 - 4, which accounted for 44 per cent of the total, while children under 10 years old accounted for 74 per cent of the total. The jurisdictions of greatest incidence, both in numbers and in relation to population, were the Peace River Health Unit and the Indian reservations.

The incidence of salmonellosis, a form of bacterial food poisoning, dropped by 58 per cent from its level during the last three months of 1973, and was just about equal to the five-year average for the period January - March. Children under five years old accounted for exactly one-half of the total. The greatest number of cases was reported by the City of Calgary, but the highest incidence rate was in the Indian reservations.

Syphilis showed an overall increase of 40 per cent compared with the period October - December 1973, and the increase was greater among females than among males. The incidence in both sexes was higher than the five-year average for January - March, and again the difference was greater for females than for males. Early symptomatic syphilis accounted for 48 per cent of the cases, and 48 per cent of these were in the age group 30 - 39. Among the cases of early symptomatic syphilis males outnumbered females by more than three to one, while for all other forms of syphilis combined there were equal numbers of males and females.

Diphtheria continued to be a pressing problem; its incidence remained at exactly the same level as during the preceding quarter, and was two-and-a-half times as high as the five-year average for the period January - March. Children under five years old accounted for 63 per cent of the total, but it is interesting to note that there were two cases, representing six per cent of the total, in persons over 60 years of age. The highest incidence rate was in the Indian reservations, which accounted for 63 per cent of the provincial total, but there was also an unusually high incidence in the Grande Prairie Health Unit, which accounted for 17 per cent of the provincial total.

The incidence of serum hepatitis declined for the second consecutive quarter. It was 21 per cent lower than during the last three months of 1973, but still 80 per cent higher than the five-year average for the period January - March. Three-fifths of the cases were in the age group 15 - 19, and one-third in the age group 20 - 24. Males outnumbered females by two to one. Eighty per cent of the cases occurred in cities, including 47 per cent in the City of Calgary, but it is worth noting that 40 per cent of the cases were accounted for by a cluster in southern Alberta involving the City of Lethbridge, the Barons-Eureka Health Unit and the Chinook Health Unit.

TABLE 1 REPORTED CASES OF COMMONER NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (EXCLUDING VENEREAL DISEASES AND TUBERCULOSIS) BY CITY, HEALTH UNIT OR OTHER JURISDICTION, ALBERTA, JANUARY - MARCH 1974

Health Jurisdiction	Salmonellosis Food as vehicle mentioned	Bacil. Dysentery	Staph. Food Poisoning	Diarrhoea of Newborn	Diphtheria	Meningococcal Infect.	Strept Throat Scarlet F	Pertussis	Aseptic Meningitis		Infect. Hepatitis	Serum Hepatitis	Measles	Rubella
									Coxsackie	ECHO spec.				
Cities														
Edmonton	1	11	-	1	-	1	194	-	-	-	64	1	133	22
Calgary	1	18	-	-	-	-	90	1	-	-	78	7	71	96
Grande Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lethbridge	-	7	-	-	-	-	5	2	-	-	-	3	1	-
Medicine Hat	-	1	-	-	-	-	104	-	-	-	3	1	12	11
Red Deer	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	20	13
Health Units														
Alberta East Central	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	2	-	103	31
Athabasca	-	3	-	-	3	-	109	-	-	-	14	-	7	4
Banff National Park	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Barons Eureka	-	3	-	-	-	1	68	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Big Country	1	-	-	-	-	-	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chief Mountain	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	-	-	-	15	-	-	-
Chinook	-	1	-	-	-	-	72	1	-	-	31	2	-	5
County of Warner	-	1	-	-	-	-	19	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
Drumheller	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Edson	-	-	-	-	-	-	70	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Foothills	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	6
Grande Prairie	-	1	-	-	6	1	62	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Jasper National Park	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Leduc-Strathcona	-	2	-	-	-	-	64	-	-	-	3	-	7	3
Medicine Hat	-	2	-	-	-	-	25	1	-	-	3	-	3	1
Minburn-Vermilion	-	-	-	-	-	-	113	-	-	-	6	-	8	-
Mount View	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	2	2
North Eastern Alberta	-	5	-	-	1	-	14	-	-	-	12	-	26	-
Peace River	-	1	-	-	-	-	45	-	-	-	6	-	1	-
Red Deer	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	3
Stony Plain-Lac Ste. Anne	-	2	-	-	2	-	78	-	-	-	5	-	29	-
Sturgeon	1	2	-	-	-	-	288	-	-	-	5	-	2	2
Vegreville	-	-	-	-	1	-	71	-	-	-	2	-	9	-
Wetoka	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	2	-	8	2
Other Jurisdictions														
Canadian Forces	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indian Reservations	4	12	-	-	22	3	56	-	-	-	26	-	46	2
Northern Alberta Health Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	1	-	-	6	-	17	2
Other Municipalities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	8	76	-	1	35	6	1594	8	-	-	307	15	527	211

TABLE 2 REPORTED CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (EXCLUDING VENEREAL DISEASES, TUBERCULOSIS AND RARE DISEASES)
BY SEX AND AGE, ALBERTA, JANUARY - MARCH 1974

Disease	Under 1		1 - 4		5 - 9		10 - 14		15 - 19		20 - 24		25 - 29		30 - 39		40 - 59		60+		Age not known		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Intestinal Infections																								
Typhoid fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Salmonella infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(a) with food as a vehicle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(b) without mention of food as vehicle	1	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6
Bacillary dysentery	7	9	14	8	3	2	3	3	1	1	2	1	5	-	2	3	4	5	-	1	-	-	41	35
Staphylococcal food poisoning	9	3	34	25	14	13	4	7	2	-	-	7	1	-	3	4	4	1	1	1	-	-	72	61
Botulism	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diarrhoea of the newborn	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Bacterial Diseases																								
Diphtheria	1	2	10	9	-	7	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	11	24
Meningococcal infections	1	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2
Streptococcal sore throat and scarlet fever	15	14	140	122	250	236	168	141	69	61	34	50	29	46	54	71	35	36	15	8	-	-	809	785
Pertussis (Whooping cough)	4	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	2
Virus Diseases of Central Nervous System																								
Aseptic meningitis due to enteroviruses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Coxsackie virus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(b) ECHO virus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not specified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western equine encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Virus Diseases																								
Infectious hepatitis	-	-	11	7	29	27	18	11	31	24	36	22	20	20	17	9	9	12	3	1	-	-	174	133
Serum hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	2	3	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	5
Measles	24	15	56	40	131	116	66	58	10	9	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	288	239
Rubella (German measles)	6	5	23	26	41	45	26	20	2	3	1	5	1	3	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	101	110

TABLE 3 REPORTED CASES OF VENEREAL DISEASES BY SEX AND AGE,
ALBERTA, JANUARY - MARCH 1974

Disease	Under 1		1 - 4		5 - 9		10 - 14		15 - 19		20 - 24		25 - 29		30 - 39		40 - 59		60+		Age not known		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Gonorrhoea	-	-	-	2	1	3	2	7	173	246	413	212	308	102	215	60	120	31	11	1	28	22	1271	686
Genito-urinary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gonococcal infection of eye	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilis	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Congenital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acquired	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Early symptomatic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	1
- Primary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	10	1
- Secondary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	4	3
- Other and unspecified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Latent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	2
- Early	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	11
- Late	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	5	2	6	-	-	-	-
- Unspecified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Late	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Cardiovascular	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Central nervous system	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
- Other forms with symptoms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Other and unspecified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chancroid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lymphogranuloma vanereum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Granuloma inguinale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE 4 REPORTED CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (EXCLUDING VENEREAL DISEASES, TUBERCULOSIS AND RARE DISEASES) AND INCIDENCE RATES, ALBERTA, JANUARY - MARCH 1974, WITH AVERAGES FOR CORRESPONDING QUARTER 1969 - 1973

Disease	January - March 1974		Average for First Quarter 1969 - 73	
	Cases	Incidence Rate per 100,000	Cases	Incidence Rate per 100,000
Intestinal Infections				
Typhoid fever	-	-	0.4	0.0
Paratyphoid fever	-	-	-	-
Other Salmonella infections	8	0.5	5.0	0.3
(a) with food as a vehicle				
(b) without mention of food as vehicle	76	4.5	77.0	4.8
Bacillary dysentery	133	7.8	61.8	3.8
Staphylococcal food poisoning	-	-	2.4	0.1
Botulism	-	-	-	-
Diarrhoea of the newborn	1	0.1	1.8	0.1
Other Bacterial Diseases				
Diphtheria	35	2.1	13.4	0.8
Meningococcal infections	6	0.4	4.2	0.3
Streptococcal sore throat and scarlet fever	1594	93.7	887.8	54.9
Pertussis (Whooping cough)	8	0.5	20.4	1.3
Virus Diseases of Central Nervous System				
Aseptic meningitis due to enteroviruses				
(a) Coxsackie virus	-	-	-	-
(b) ECHO virus	-	-	1.2	0.1
(c) Not Specified	-	-	0.2	0.0
Western equine encephalitis	-	-		
Other Virus Diseases				
Infectious hepatitis	307	18.0	385.6	23.9
Serum hepatitis	15	0.9	8.2	0.5
Measles	527	31.0	492.0	30.4
Rubella (German measles)	211	12.4	894.2	55.3

TABLE 5 REPORTED CASES OF VENEREAL DISEASES AND INCIDENCE RATES BY SEX, ALBERTA, JANUARY - MARCH 1974, WITH AVERAGES FOR CORRESPONDING QUARTER 1969 - 1973

Disease	January - March 1974			Average for First Quarter 1969 - 73		
	Cases		Incidence Rate per 100,000	Cases		Incidence Rate per 100,000
	M	F		M	F	
Gonorrhoea	1271	686	146.4	826.8	263.4	100.3
Genito-urinary	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gonococcal infection of eye	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilis	1	-	0.1	0.8	0.2	0.1
Congenital	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acquired	-	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Early symptomatic	4	1	0.5	4.8	0.4	0.6
- Primary	10	1	1.2	6.4	3.6	0.8
- Secondary	4	3	0.5	0.8	0.4	0.1
- Other and unspecified	6	2	0.7	4.6	3.0	0.6
(b) Latent	5	11	0.6	4.2	4.0	0.5
- Early	-	-	-	1.0	0.8	0.1
- Late	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Unspecified	-	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Late	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Cardiovascular	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Central nervous system	1	-	0.1	-	0.2	-
- Other forms with symptoms	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Other and unspecified	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chancroid	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lymphogranuloma venereum	-	-	-	-	-	-
Granuloma inguinale	-	-	-	-	-	-

HIGHLIGHTS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND CHILD WELFARE STATISTICS

Donna Angus and Janice Faltinson*

Public Assistance

Table 1 presents the distribution of the caseload by reason for assistance for the month of March 1974. The monthly public assistance computer printouts, from which this table is derived, were changed to a new format in March, 1974. Some of the new categories of reasons for assistance are not comparable to those of previous months and, therefore, the calculation of a quarterly average was not possible. For the month of March, persons with dependent children accounted for the largest proportion of the caseload (38.97 per cent). Persons 60 years or over constituted 20.15 per cent of the total and those persons in the category of physical illness or disability constituted 18.88 per cent of the total. The total caseload (30,148) decreased 2.36 per cent from the previous month.

Table 2 indicates the age-sex distribution of the caseload for the quarter. The proportion of the caseload constituted by males increased from 35.95 per cent (10,878) in the last quarter to 36.36 per cent (11,093) in this quarter. An increase in number was most evident in the age category of 65 years and over which increased from 1585 to 1773. The proportion of the caseload constituted by females decreased from 64.05 per cent in the last quarter to 63.64 per cent in this quarter. However, the age category of 65 years and over substantially increased in number from 1111 in the last quarter to 1359 in this quarter.

Table 3 indicates the distribution of the caseload by regional office. As in the last quarter, the regional offices of Edmonton (North, South, West, West 10), Calgary (North, South), Lethbridge, Grande Prairie, Red Deer, and Wetaskiwin occupy the first ten rank positions in their share of the provincial caseload. The Edmonton and Calgary regional offices, combined, account for nearly 64 per cent of the total caseload. Twenty-five of the regional offices showed an increase in caseload from the previous quarter, with Whitecourt (9.02 per cent), Wetaskiwin (5.19 per cent), and Drumheller (4.29 per cent) experiencing the largest increases. Eleven regional offices show decreases in caseload with Grande Cache (22.00 per cent), Vegreville (7.97 per cent), Hanna (6.82 per cent) and Peace River (5.43 per cent) having the largest relative decreases.

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Child Welfare

Table 1A indicates the distribution of children under care, by status, for the quarter January to March 1974, and compares this distribution to that of the previous quarter. The total number of children under care (5922) has increased only slightly from the previous quarter's total (5920). Permanent wards constitute 48.6 per cent of the total; temporary wards, 38.2 per cent of the total; custody by agreement and out of province, the remaining 13.2 per cent. Increases are evident in the proportion of the total accounted for by temporary CWA wards and custody by agreement (2.73 per cent and 3.23 per cent, respectively). All other types of status decreased from the previous quarter; with the greatest decrease occurring in view to adoption (7.46 per cent).

Table 2A presents the distribution of children under care by status and type of placement. As in the previous quarter, more than one-half of the children were in foster homes (58.1 per cent). Those children placed with a view to adoption accounted for 11.8 per cent of the total; 13.2 per cent were in institutions, and 9.6 per cent were living with their own parents.

Table 3A indicates the age-sex distribution of children under care. Male children accounted for 61.92 per cent of the total; female children, 38.08 per cent. This distribution is similar to that of the previous quarter. As in the previous quarter, the age range of 12 - 18 years had the greatest proportion of children (48.94 per cent), due to the inclusion of probation cases in this group.

TABLE 1 DISTRIBUTION OF CASELOAD BY REASONS FOR ASSISTANCE
MARCH, 1974*

Reasons for Assistance	#	%
Persons 60 Years or Over	6,075	20.15
Person with Dependent Children	11,749	38.97
Physical Illness or Disability	5,693	18.88
Mental Illness	2,442	8.10
Mental Retardation	18	0.06
Employable	4,156	13.79
Unsuitable for Employment	15	0.05
TOTAL	30,148	100.00
Rate of change over previous month		-2.36

*Table 4 of the monthly public assistance computer printouts, from which this table is derived, was changed to a new format in March 1974. Some of the new categories of reasons for assistance are not comparable to those of previous months and therefore, the calculation of a quarterly average was not possible.

TABLE 2 AGE-SEX DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CASELOAD
JANUARY - MARCH 1974

Age Group	Males		Females		Both Sexes	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
0 - 19	544	1.78	1185	3.88	1729	5.67
20 - 24	987	3.24	2571	8.42	3558	11.66
25 - 29	897	2.94	2571	8.42	3468	11.36
30 - 34	750	2.46	2051	6.73	2801	9.18
35 - 39	711	2.33	1817	5.95	2528	8.28
40 - 44	854	2.80	1682	5.51	2536	8.31
45 - 49	892	2.92	1462	4.79	2354	7.71
50 - 54	890	2.92	1431	4.69	2321	7.61
55 - 59	1090	3.57	1460	4.78	2550	8.36
60 - 64	1705	5.59	1836	6.02	3541	11.60
65+	1773	5.81	1359	4.45	3132	10.26
TOTAL	11093	36.36	19425	63.64	30518	100.00

TABLE 3 REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF CASELOAD,
JANUARY - MARCH 1974*

Regional Office	Quarterly Average Jan-March 1974		Last Quarter's Average Oct-Dec 1973		Rate of Change over Last Quarter	Ranks	
	#	%	#	%		This Quarter	Last Quarter
Edmonton North	5041	16.1	4973	16.0	1.37	1	1
Calgary South	4784	15.3	4708	15.2	1.61	2	2
Calgary North	3409	10.9	3381	10.9	0.83	3	3
Edmonton West	3343	10.7	3365	10.9	-0.65	4	4
Edmonton South	2475	7.9	2523	8.1	-1.90	5	5
Lethbridge	1545	4.9	1497	4.8	3.21	6	6
Grande Prairie	974	3.1	971	3.1	0.31	7	7
West 10	948	3.0	916	3.0	3.49	8	8
Red Deer	848	2.7	815	2.6	4.05	9	9
Wetaskiwin	831	2.7	790	2.5	5.19	10	10
Medicine Hat	655	2.1	633	2.0	3.48	11	11
High Prairie	531	1.7	542	1.8	-2.03	12	12
Lac la Biche	437	1.4	433	1.4	0.92	13	13
Barrhead	417	1.3	405	1.3	2.96	14	14
Peace River	366	1.2	387	1.3	-5.43	15	16
Vegreville	358	1.1	389	1.3	-7.97	16	15
Bonnyville	334	1.1	322	1.0	3.73	17	17
Edson	316	1.0	317	1.0	-0.32	18	18
St. Paul	313	1.0	313	1.0	0.00	19	19
Drumheller	292	0.9	280	0.9	4.29	20	20
Slave Lake	281	0.9	277	0.9	1.44	21	21
Vermilion	277	0.9	271	0.9	2.21	22	22
Camrose	262	0.8	257	0.8	1.95	23	23
Smoky Lake	248	0.8	241	0.8	2.90	24	25
Blairmore	244	0.8	242	0.8	0.83	25	24
Wainwright	242	0.8	234	0.8	3.42	26	26
Athabasca	211	0.7	213	0.7	-0.94	27	27
McMurray	195	0.6	200	0.7	-2.50	28	28
High Level	190	0.6	190	0.6	0.00	29	29
Stettler	176	0.6	179	0.6	-1.68	31	30
Rocky Mtn. House	176	0.6	172	0.6	2.33	31	31
Olds	173	0.6	171	0.5	1.17	32	32
Whitecourt	133	0.4	122	0.4	9.02	33	33
Brooks	122	0.4	117	0.4	4.27	34	34
Hanna	82	0.3	88	0.3	-6.82	35	35
Grande Cache	39	0.1	50	0.2	-22.00	36	36
TOTAL	31268	100.0	30984	100.0	0.92	-	-

*Includes Guardian Social Allowance cases.

TABLE 1A STATUS OF CHILDREN UNDER CARE, JANUARY - MARCH 1974

Type of Ward	January	February	March	Quarterly Average # %	Last Quarter's Average # %	% Change Between Quarters
Temporary CWA	1841	1854	1943	1879 31.7	1829 30.7	2.73
Permanent Wards	2198	2205	2189	2197 37.1	2218 37.3	-0.95
View to Adoption	701	653	692	682 11.5	737 12.4	-7.46
Temporary JDA	392	358	396	382 6.5	399 6.7	-4.26
Custody by Agreement	579	550	598	576 9.7	588 9.4	3.23
Out of Province	208	208	202	206 3.5	209 3.5	-1.44
TOTAL	5919	5828	6020	5922 100.0	5920 100.0	0.03
Percentage change over previous month	+0.10	-1.54	+3.29			
Percentage change over previous quarter				+0.03	2.44	

CWA - Child Welfare Act
JDA - Juvenile Delinquency Act

TABLE 2A DISTRIBUTION OF CHILDREN UNDER CARE BY STATUS AND TYPE OF PLACEMENT
JANUARY - MARCH 1974

Type of Placement	Temporary Ward (C.W.A.)		Permanent Ward (C.W.A.)		Custody by Agreement		Out of Province		Temporary Ward (J.D.A.)		TOTAL	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Free Home	11	0.6	18	0.6	2	0.4	1	0.5	3	0.8	35	0.6
Foster Home	1244	66.4	1659	57.7	332	57.8	143	69.8	55	14.4	3433	58.1
Institution: Treatment Correctional Receiving	66	3.5	81	2.8	38	6.6	1	0.5	97	25.5	283	4.8
	-	-	7	0.3	-	-	-	-	5	1.3	12	0.2
	127	6.8	73	2.5	42	7.3	2	1.0	4	1.0	248	4.2
Alberta School Hospital	12	0.6	66	2.3	14	2.4	4	2.0	4	1.0	100	1.7
Other Institution	18	1.0	93	3.2	18	3.1	4	2.0	2	0.5	135	2.3
Independent	4	0.2	27	0.9	1	0.2	1	0.5	4	1.0	37	0.6
View to Adoption	-	-	682	23.7	-	-	16	7.8	-	-	698	11.8
Run Away	27	1.4	24	0.8	11	1.9	1	0.5	34	8.9	97	1.6
With Own Parents	301	16.0	43	1.5	79	13.8	16	7.8	130	34.1	569	9.6
Group Home	39	2.1	78	2.7	31	5.4	5	2.4	34	8.9	187	3.2
With Relatives	26	1.4	25	0.9	6	1.1	11	5.3	9	2.4	77	1.3
TOTAL	1875	100.0	2876	100.0	574	100.0	205	100.0	381	100.0	5911	100.0

JDA - Juvenile Delinquency Act
CWA - Child Welfare Act

TABLE 3A AGE-SEX DISTRIBUTION OF CHILDREN UNDER CARE
JANUARY - MARCH 1974*

Birth Year	Males		Females		Both Sexes		Range %	
	#	%	#	%	#	%		
1974	321	4.23	278	3.67	599	7.90	approx. 0 - 6 years	26.85
1973	149	1.97	128	1.69	277	3.65		
1972	128	1.69	110	1.45	238	3.14		
1971	131	1.73	121	1.60	252	3.32		
1970	110	1.45	95	1.25	205	2.70		
1969	128	1.69	83	1.09	211	2.78	approx. 7 - 12 years	24.21
1968	160	2.11	95	1.25	255	3.36		
1967	157	2.07	119	1.57	276	3.64		
1966	180	2.37	119	1.57	299	3.94		
1965	176	2.32	102	1.35	278	3.67		
1964	176	2.32	108	1.42	284	3.75	approx. 13+ years	48.94
1963	196	2.59	115	1.52	311	4.10		
1962	256	3.38	131	1.73	387	5.11		
1961	373	4.92	162	2.14	535	7.06		
1960	528	6.97	229	3.02	757	9.99		
1959	656	8.65	317	4.18	973	12.84	approx. 13+ years	48.94
1958	537	7.08	272	3.59	809	10.67		
1957	266	3.51	240	3.17	506	6.68		
1956	66	0.87	62	0.82	128	1.69		
TOTAL	4694	61.92	2886	38.08	7580	100.00	100.00	

*Note: These tabulations include probation cases (concentrated in the ages 12 to 18 years).

GLOSSARY

- Boarding Home - a foster home in which the foster parents receive monetary compensation from the department to cover boarding expenses, clothing, etc. for the ward.
- Caseload - the number of households, or units, assisted; these units consisting of one or more persons. Caseload is often used to refer to the collective heads of these units.
- Child Welfare Act - a provincial statute assented to in April, 1966. This Act gives the Director of Child Welfare or designated child welfare workers the authority to intervene and take action on behalf of children thought to be neglected as well as responsibility for children alleged to be juvenile delinquents.
- Free Home - a foster home in which the foster parents have chosen to receive no monetary compensation from the department for the care of the ward.
- Guardian Social Allowance (an extension of the social allowance program) - an allowance for basic necessities provided by the department, in the absence of the parent(s), to a person who in the opinion of the director is properly caring for the child.
- Independent Placement - a situation where an older teenage ward is granted independent status by the Director of Child Welfare to live on his own.
- Juvenile Delinquents Act - a federal statute assented to in 1929. In 1970, when amendments were made to Alberta's Child Welfare Act, the Department of Health and Social Development assumed responsibility for juvenile delinquents. Formerly, delinquent children were in the charge of the Attorney-General's Department.
- Municipal Caseload - a municipality is responsible for assisting an employable person who is a resident of the municipality and
- (1) was a resident of the municipality during the twelve months immediately preceding his application, and
 - (2) did not, during any part of these twelve months, receive material aid from the province or any other municipality.
- The municipality is reimbursed 90 per cent by the province for expenditures incurred.
- Non-Ward (now called "custody by agreement") - is a child (under the age of 18) whose parents have entered into an agreement with the Director of Child Welfare for the temporary care of the child; the parents retain guardianship rights. Situations which result in custody by agreement usually involve circumstances such as illness of the parents, or the child, which make care of the child beyond the parents' capabilities.
- Permanent Ward - a child (under the age of 18) whose ties with his natural parents have been completely severed and whose sole custodian and guardian is the Director of Child Welfare. Permanent wardship expires at age 18; but until that time, such children are adoptable.
- Reasons for Assistance - the social allowance program is available to those persons who lack the resources or income sufficient to meet their needs and those of their dependents. Eligibility for assistance is defined within the following categories; for each application, the social worker assigns a reason for assistance on the following rank order basis. That is, applicants are assigned to the first category of reason for assistance that applied to them, proceeding through the list of reasons in their specified order.

Age (Person 60 or over) - A person may be considered eligible for assistance under this reason if 60 years of age or older. Prior to November 1971, women between 55 and 60 years of age were also eligible for Social Allowance by reason of age alone.

Person with Dependent Child(ren) - This reason is applicable to the single parent family where the parent actually has custody of or is personally caring for a dependent child.

Physical Ill Health/Disability - This reason is applicable to a person with a physical disability, impairment, or illness, regardless of expected duration, which prevents rendering services for wages sufficient to meet the person's needs and those of dependents.

Mental Ill Health - This reason is applicable to persons having an obvious mental illness or a medical certificate confirming such mental illness, regardless of the expected duration.

Mental Retardation - This reason is applicable to persons who are mentally retarded. A medical certificate or assessment is required if the disability is not readily recognizable.

Employable - This reason is applicable to persons who are unemployed and seeking employment or whose employability may be under assessment, as well as persons employed full- or part-time with insufficient income. This reason also applies to persons temporarily unavailable for work because of schooling pregnancy, or in jail for less than 90 days.

Unsuitable for Employment - This reason is applicable to cases who have been assessed as socially, psychologically, or otherwise unsuited for employment. Such cases would be transferred to other reasons for assistance after the assessment period.

Guardian Social Allowance - This is an extension of the Social Allowance program designed to assist persons acting as guardians and providing care to children placed in their homes by parents unable or unwilling to provide such care.

Recipients - In contrast to the term "caseload", this term refers to the unit heads plus their dependents. The number of recipients on assistance is approximately two or three times as great as the caseload.

Temporary Ward - children (under the age of 18) who are in custody of the Director of Child Welfare for a temporary period. At the end of this specified period, the temporary wardship is reviewed by the Court. Three possible outcomes of this review are:

- (a) the wardship may be allowed to lapse;
- (b) the wardship may be renewed for another specified period; or
- (c) the Court may rule to request permanent wardship from a higher court.

